CLAIMS

1   1.   In a computer based system having a touchscreen, a method for distinguishing

2   between finger contact and stylus contact comprising:

3   detecting contact with said touchscreen;

4   generating contact information for said detected contact with said touchscreen;

5   comparing said contact information corresponding to said detected contact with

6   contact criteria; and,

7   based on said comparing of said contact information, determining whether said

8   contact was initiated by a finger or a stylus.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said contact criteria includes a threshold value

2   for comparing said contact information.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein said determining step comprises:

2   for said contact information consistent with said contact criteria corresponding to

3   said finger contact, interpreting said detected contact as said finger contact.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein said determining step comprises:

2   for said contact information consistent with said contact criteria corresponding to

3   said stylus contact, interpreting said detected contact as said stylus contact.

1 5. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

2   offsetting an on-screen pointer a predetermined distance from said detected

3 contact.

1 6. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

2   detecting the duration of said contact.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

2   detecting the duration between said contact and a second contact.

1 8. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

2   displaying an activated point in said touchscreen beneath said detected contact.

1 9. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

2   converting pointer control information to text.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   based on said determining step, presenting a visual interface in said touchscreen

3 corresponding to said finger contact or said stylus contact.

1	11. In a computer based system having a touchscreen, a method for distinguishing

2	between a finger and a stylus comprising:

3	detecting contact with said touchscreen;

4	generating contact information for said detected contact with said touchscreen;

5	comparing said contact information corresponding to said detected contact with

6	contact criteria;

7	based on said comparing of said contact information, determining whether said

8	contact was initiated by a finger or a stylus;

9	for said contact information consistent with said contact criteria corresponding to

10	said finger contact, interpreting said detected contact as a finger contact; and, offsetting

11	an on-screen pointer a predetermined distance from said detected contact; and

12	detecting the duration of said contact and the duration between said contact and a

13	second contact; and,

14	for said contact information consistent with said contact criteria corresponding to

15	said finger contact, interpreting said detected contact as a stylus contact and displaying

16	an activated point in said touchscreen beneath said detected contact.

1	12. A machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having

2	a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to

3	perform the steps of:

4	detecting contact with a touchscreen;

5	generating contact information for said detected contact with said touchscreen;

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6   comparing said contact information corresponding to said detected contact with

7   contact criteria; and,

8   based on said comparing of said contact information, determining whether said

9   contact was initiated by a finger or a stylus.

1   13.   The machine readable storage of claim 12, wherein said contact criteria includes

2   a threshold value for comparing said contact information.

1   14.   The machine readable storage of claim 12, further causing the machine to

2   perform the step of:

3   for said contact information consistent with said contact criteria corresponding to

4   said finger contact, interpreting said detected contact as a finger contact.

1   15.   The machine readable storage of claim 12, further causing the machine to

2   perform the step of:

3   for said contact information consistent with said contact criteria corresponding to

4   said stylus contact, interpreting said detected contact as a stylus contact.

1   16.   The machine readable storage of claim 14, further causing the machine to

2   perform the step of:

3   offsetting an on-screen pointer a predetermined distance from said detected

4   contact.

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1   17.   The machine readable storage of claim 14, further causing the machine to

2   perform the step of:

3   detecting the duration of said contact.

1   18.   The machine readable storage of claim 17, further causing the machine to

2   perform the step of:

3   detecting the duration between said contact and a second contact.

1   19.   The machine readable storage of claim 15, further causing the machine to

2   perform the step of:

3   displaying an activated point in said touchscreen beneath said detected contact.

1   20.   The machine readable storage of claim 15, further causing the machine to

2   perform the step of:

3   converting pointer control information to text.

1   21.   The machine readable storage of claim 12, further causing the machine to

2   perform the step of:

3   based on said determining step, presenting a visual interface in said touchscreen

4   corresponding to said finger contact or said stylus contact.